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MEDICAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR VALUE.

AN ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

OF

JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE,

MARCH 9, 1877.

BY

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ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
OF JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE.

BY the choice of your Executive Committee, it has become my duty to pronounce before you the annual address. In accepting this pleasant task, the question arose as to what should be the theme of my remarks; how could I best employ this opportunity for your benefit!

Feeling that yours was an organization created for the special purpose of joining as one the offspring of our *Alma Mater*, in the hope that we might thus benefit her, and also aid in the elevation of our divine art, I have concluded that I could best serve all interests by giving you some thoughts as to MEDICAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR VALUE.

We find, wherever we turn, each profession uniting its members in associations of various forms, but all having the same object. The workingman combines with his fellows to maintain the price of his labor, to shorten the time daily required of him, and to prevent the introduction into the ranks of unskilled artificers. The merchant unites with those of his class, and we find as a result exchanges, where dealers in each particular commodity assemble to learn of everything calculated to aid them in the art of money getting.

Our co-laborers of the law and of divinity obtain most excellent results from their law academies and their ministers' meetings.

In our own profession, the value, in fact the necessity of associations which shall serve to bring us frequently into close relations is constantly being proven to us. It has been found practically impossible to prevent the involuntary drifting to-

gether of men of like feelings and of similar pursuits. The student of nature feels a longing to tell what he has found, and to learn the findings of others. His studies are thus lightened; he is more readily enabled to correct his errors, and, by a comparison of views and results, he unravels the mysteries which have so often appeared inextricably tangled. This will appear more intelligible if we suppose for a moment each student were to commence afresh, unaided by the researches of those who had travelled these paths before him; compelled in the same tedious uncertain way to correct the errors in each problem; plodding slowly along the paths of knowledge, constantly going astray, and only finding the true path after he had wasted many precious hours in wandering along a track leading him constantly further away from the goal.

Thus, like a weary traveller, the sun gone down, the shades of night closing around him, he reaches a halting place to pass the night in vain regrets over the waste of so much valuable time and strength.

The reverse of this obtains, when we regard the student who starts on his way lighted by the radiance shed by the investigations of his predecessors; guided by the valuable books prepared with great diligence and study, and in many ways aided by the valuable adjuncts which are constantly produced in the great effort to find the "royal road to knowledge."

Perhaps no art is so greatly indebted to the diligent student as that of medicine. While we have to a great degree in anatomy, a fixed science; in chemistry, much that is positive; yet in surgery, and in therapeutics, in the application of our remedial means, yea, even in obstetrics, too often regarded as purely mechanical, or what is infinitely worse, a matter to be consigned entirely to the efforts of nature, or to the unskilled, dangerous intermeddling of old women, what vast fields are there yet to occupy, explore, and cultivate!

Much will depend upon the way in which these explorations are made. Life is too short, and art too long for us to consume a moment in useless repetition of the trials and failures of others. We must be prepared to appropriate for the benefit of the whole profession the success obtained by each. We must avoid their errors, abandon their useless plans, press for-

ward surely, even though it be slowly, and leave the world of medicine better for our having been born into it.

I may be permitted to turn aside for a moment to indicate here one of our most valuable aids in the effort to serve the cause of medical improvement. I mean the medical press. How absurd would a merchant appear who never sought the columns of the newspaper, but should attempt to carry on his business regardless of the state of the markets, etc.! Yet is it less absurd to contemplate a physician who attempts to pursue the intricacies of our calling without sufficient intelligence to keep himself up to the times by the aid of a good medical journal? How is it possible for him to know of the improvements in pharmacy; the advances in surgery; the discoveries in practice? In short, he will be blindly following the routine practice of a past age, and be constantly stumbling into the pitfalls which have caused the destruction of others. In nothing do some men seem so deficient as in a knowledge of the results of the labors of others. Too many seem quite content to travel the beaten track with scarcely a thought of improvement, their souls never rising above the love for a fee, being satisfied with that as their chief end and aim in existence, not reflecting that it is too often received as a return for their do-nothing policy. To such I would say, "You are unfit for membership in our noble and Godlike profession. Seek some other calling by which you may more honestly if not more usefully earn your living."

Occasionally we encounter another class, and by no means a small one, who herald as a new and important discovery something the value of which has long been known, or its uselessness as fully proven. I would urge upon all a most careful and constant examination of the work of the profession, as pictured in the many valuable journals spread over the land, although I would caution them to remember that the grains are too often hidden in bushels of chaff.

As the traveller finds the way made less tedious, the distance apparently shortened, and the hours to speed by more quickly and happily when he is accompanied by others, so the student is materially aided and his success made more complete by association with those engaged in kindred pursuits. For this,

as one of many reasons, we urge the union of every physician with a medical society. To his society he can and should bring his acquirements in the shape of facts learned at the bedside, results proven by repeated trials. Nor should he merely present his successes. Let him never omit to mention his failures. As much, yea more, is often learned by one failure than by many successes. It teaches what should be avoided, and serves to point the way more clearly to success in the future. At these reunions, while giving to others, he receives much in return. He learns the methods and remedies which have proved of value in the hands of the older practitioners, or those whose studies have been pursued by the aid of a different light. The constant friction of man against man acts to wear off the roughness of his nature, to polish him up, and bring out in bold relief the beauties and talents which would otherwise lie dormant. Hence we find that all are benefited by their attendance at such gatherings. While all may not participate, yet all hear and appropriate the ideas given forth, and place the proper value upon the facts stated. It often happens that a brilliant theory, beautiful in conception, when brought to the full light of knowledge is speedily overthrown and shown to be untenable.

At this point we may allude to some of the plans adopted by different medical bodies. In one, a paper is read, and its discussion follows, or is reserved for a subsequent session, in order that the members may have ample opportunity to do it full justice. When care is observed to have these papers upon practical subjects which are constantly engrossing the attention of the profession, the discussions are usually of great value, and elicit all the important and valuable experience of the members. But it may readily be seen how such an introductory paper might exhaust not only the subject, but also those who were compelled to listen to it. Again, a most excellent method is the relation of special cases which have recently occupied the attention of members, and concerning which members are expected to give their views as to the diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment. Where a society has been so fortunate as to include among its members a few active, intelligent spirits, this plan has been found to work

most usefully. This is sometimes improved by the introduction of obscure or rare cases, thus affording, as it were, a bedside clinic.

A due admixture of each of these methods will be found to result in the greatest good to the society and its members.

Where associations are formed with special purposes, as by pathological students, obstetricians, ophthalmologists, etc., the plan of action is evident, and the results may generally be predicted with somewhat of certainty. And yet we have excellent authority for objecting to these subdivisions. The most successful specialists are those who are well acquainted with all that pertains to general practice. In societies, unity is equally required; and while we do not fail to observe the valuable results obtained by these special societies, we can equally see what vast power they would give to the whole profession by a union, so that the entire body of medical men in each locality could act together. If it is deemed desirable, physicians of kindred pursuits may unite in coteries or sections; but let every one regard it his duty to connect himself with his district organization, that all may act together when the occasion demands. I may refer to this again.

But there are other and far different lights in which we may regard medical organizations. While we must ever view them as a means of promoting advances in knowledge, thus alike beneficial to the profession and to the public, it must not be forgotten that they have equally valuable uses which should make them a necessity in every district of our vast country. I refer now to the advantage of medical societies as the promoters of a higher standard in the profession; as aids in preserving the health of communities; as sanitary educators of the masses; and last, though far from least, as conservators of the *esprit de corps* which does so much to make the educated physician proud of his profession, and also causes the outside world to render him the homage which is eminently due to the "doctor."

Permit me to pause a moment here that I may emphasize this point. We are called "doctors" and "physicians." We should be truly "learned" both in our profession and in col-

lateral sciences. We should always be "care-takers" of the health and life of those who are intrusted to our care.

Gentlemen, *we are respected as we respect ourselves.* You will find it invariably true, that the vast mass of mankind regard the physician as a gentleman, a scholar, one worthy of admiration and respect. How wofully then does it recoil upon us when one of our number proves recreant to the high trust reposed in him! He not only falls himself, but drags down the profession with him. Look to it, gentlemen, that none of you thus fail, and prove a curse to our great calling when you should have been a blessing and an ornament.

In this connection I may allude to the fact that the ignorant classes hail with delight quarrels or differences among the members of our profession. They are ever ready to denounce us as "pretenders to knowledge," and they consider these disagreements as proofs of the fact, and hence the contemptuous remark, "it is only a doctor's quarrel."

It is a well-known fact that the fountain cannot rise higher than its source. When the source is located in an inferior position among the foot-hills, the stream soon spends its force, and can only spread itself aimlessly on the low lands around. But when it originates high up among the mountains, its course is with power, it becomes the valuable mill-force, or carries upon its bosom the commerce of a nation. So is it with our profession. The future of medicine is in our own hands. If we are content to permit the constant infusion into our ranks of badly educated, ill-prepared material, we must not complain if we constantly lose ground, and if we gradually sink from the high position which we should and must occupy. The educated physician is the peer of any one; no one can stand higher than he. So true is this that a well-known and talented physician of England, on his return from a visit to America, remarked in an address, that while, in the United States, there was no class known as the nobility, and hence no real aristocracy, yet that the medical profession might justly be regarded as the true aristocracy of the republic.

Now, by the union of the profession into regularly organized associations much can be done to promote this great object—the elevation of the standard of the profession. When those

who desire to come into our ranks find at every turn that our organizations meet them with the demand that they shall be properly educated prior to their reception, they will either decline our company or comply with our requests. A learned member of this Association, one whom we all revere, has truly announced that this work properly begins with the profession itself. Colleges must take the material offered to them; when the profession demands a higher standard, the schools will cheerfully comply with that demand.

But, to make this demand with telling force, we require it to be backed by the power of the whole profession. How can this be done save by the influence and efforts of our medical societies? What is the value of such societies when two-thirds of the profession stand aloof? If for no other reason than this, every graduate in medicine should hasten to connect himself with his district society.

Why do we see our State legislatures annually chartering medical colleges regardless of results? Giving them the right to issue diplomas with the noble degree of "Doctor in Medicine" to any one who will pay the fee demanded? Allowing these charters to bear names only intended to deceive and entrap the unwary? Had every regular physician in Pennsylvania been a member of his county society, think you our legislature would long have hesitated to relieve us of the burning disgrace of "diploma selling," which has well nigh made a Philadelphia diploma an object of suspicion if not of contempt, both in this country and in Europe? It is time for us to pause and reflect when from abroad comes the constant inquiry as to whether the holder of a diploma conferring the degree in medicine has bought it or earned it! It is time for us to pause and reflect when an institution is created with a title so nearly that of one of our greatest and best schools, that even older members of the profession are constantly confounding the two! We cannot expect the uneducated masses to appreciate the difference between the so-called medical schools and those of whose reputation we are justly proud. But, by the grand union of our forces, not one being so careless or indifferent as to hesitate in giving his aid, we can wield

a power which will prove irresistible, and which would speedily sweep away every vestige of charlatanism.

In some sections of our country this fact is so fully recognized that the profession permit no consultations with those who are not members of their local societies. It may be objected that this is an act of oppression. But it can only prove oppressive to the horde of irregulars. No graduate of a regular medical school can be excluded from membership in his county medical society save for good and sufficient reasons. No physician can desire to shun fellowship with those who, like him, are striving for the great good of all. Apart from the aid he thus gives to the common cause, there is a special benefit to himself. A glance at the membership of a county society enables those at a distance to determine the status of the profession there. A question may at any moment arise concerning any one of the members. The fact of the appearance of his name upon the list of his county proves that he is in correct standing. Its absence leads to a doubt which can only be settled by a correspondence and inquiry more or less tedious. On this point, gentlemen, my official position enables me to speak directly and positively. An insurance company requires a medical examiner, or to determine the status of an applicant for such a position, they seek the membership of that county. A physician desires to place a patient under the care of a competent physician at a distance, he too relies upon this avenue of knowledge. In short, you can readily appreciate the immense advantage constantly accruing both to the physician and to the professional interests at large by the inclusion in one society of every regular physician in each district.

The union of these smaller bodies by representation in their State organizations, and these again in one grand whole, by their delegations to the American Medical Association, gives us a unification of the profession capable of obtaining all the reforms that we can possibly desire.

Perhaps one value of medical organizations is most forcibly shown by the readiness with which the public and their servants the municipal authorities call upon our societies for relief and information in the time of pestilence. When disease and

death stalk over the land, wasting precious lives in every direction, then are we eagerly sought in our united capacity to indicate the proper measures to avert its approach, or to mitigate its influence. No time is lost in selecting men, but at once the matter is referred to the medical society which quietly assumes the work, selects its committees, decides as to the best plans for relief, and sends forth its brave volunteers to meet the dreaded stranger on its way, too often to fall victims to its wrath. Those who remain behind are engaged in preparations for the care of the sick if its coming cannot be prevented, and it is shorn of half its terrors.

It is not, however, for us to await the birth of disease; we must see that its germs are prevented from meeting a fruitful soil in which to propagate. Much of the health of a community depends upon ventilation, cleanliness, and proper drainage. Place even a sickly people amid the best sanitary surroundings, and much is done to improve their health and comfort, even though their disease be ineradicable.

Attention to such matters at once suggests a local board of health, which, being the work only of medical men, should be placed in charge of the district society, and the same work for the State in that of the State Medical Society. This has been the plan adopted in some of the States, and appears thus far to have worked in a satisfactory manner.

But, without going to this length, the demand by the entire body of the profession of a State, that its legislature should give said State a proper health law, could not be long resisted even in these days of degenerate lawgivers. The efforts thus far made in so many States have been in vain, only because the union of the profession was utterly wanting or imperfect. What cares a member of a legislature for a medical law, which does not enlist the sympathy of his own physician? Again, enact ever so wise a law for the registration of vital statistics, attach what penalties you please, yet as the success of the whole matter depends upon the intelligent co-operation of the whole profession, this can only be gained by the proper instruction of its individual members, as to the advantages and benefits of such enactments. It is a well-ascertained fact that wherever you find a man in full active fellowship with his

society, you are sure to find him alive to the value of all such matters, and prepared to lend his aid and influence in carrying them forward.

As an evidence of the quick appreciation by the masses of our efforts to educate them in the promotion of health, we may instance the readiness with which they seized upon the tracts or sheets containing rules and instruction for the care of children during the heated term, which were prepared by the Obstetrical Society of Philadelphia, and issued in large quantities by our City Board of Health.

The masses thirst for knowledge as to the care of the health of themselves and their loved ones, and *will* have it; if not from our hands, then from the hands of the pretenders and charlatans. Hence, the importance, the necessity for our attention to this matter, that they may be provided with correct information, lest they receive that which may prove injurious.

Under such conditions, we can readily perceive that additional force and value are given to these opinions when they emanate from an organization including a large majority, if not all the physicians of the district.

The morale of an army can only be maintained by the most rigid discipline; this discipline earnestly and intelligently enforced by the officers, and met and obeyed in like spirit by the men who compose the rank and file. If the soldiers who go forth to do battle in behalf of their country are without organization, regardless of their officers, careless as to obedience, they degenerate into a mob of irregular guerillas; they fail to serve the cause in which they are enlisted; generally contrive to do it a vast deal of injury, and are most likely to end by turning their weapons against each other. So is it with the members of the medical profession. The physician has enlisted in a crusade against disease and death. This warfare can best be waged by systematic organization of the individual members into bodies that shall hurl their full weight against the common enemy. Like the soldier, the physician standing shoulder to shoulder in the ranks feels that bond uniting them in the common cause. He is filled with an intense desire for the success of his profession. The advance of one part of the line is hailed with joy by all. A failure, a

defeat is a defeat for all. With such feelings animating him he is incapable of a mean action. He finds a monitor within which prevents his yielding to low trickery to obtain patronage, but, on the contrary, he strives to become a better scholar, more proficient in his art, that he too may contribute at least his mite to the common fund of knowledge. Such men are incapable of organizing so-called medical schools solely for the purpose of being dubbed "Professor," and thus be enabled more easily to deceive the people. Such men are incapable of sly innuendoes against other physicians, by which they hope to induce the transfer of a lucrative patient to their own care. Such men will scorn to offer to act as medical witnesses in a suit for malpractice merely to obtain the fees, and aid in the downfall of others. Who ever knew of a respectable member of a medical society fomenting such suits? The safety of the profession and of each individual member is in having all united, so that all may be equally bound in honor for the good of all. If my hearers will glance over our land, they will find the truth of my assertion, that charlatanry and all kinds of irregularities most abound where the profession are least united; that in those States where medical organizations are perfected, the members of the profession are rarely found to be engaged in unseemly quarrels, and there we do not find a paradise of pretenders.

Of course, I must not be regarded as claiming, or expecting perfection under any circumstances. For, it must be remembered that in the Garden of Eden, the snake came and instituted the practice of irregularities; and that even in Heaven there was found a personage who could not tolerate any greater "doctor" than himself, and in the effort to prove his pretensions, made such a miserable failure that it ended in his being expelled from the society in that district.

Our own Association gives us a lesson, a testimony to the truth of my remarks. Our members find their sympathies awakened or renewed for the "Old Jeff," around which cluster the happy reminiscences of student days. They are anxious for her welfare; their pride is enlisted that she may be abundantly prepared to educate those who seek her halls of learning; their interest is aroused that her trustees may be wise enough

to select the best material with which to adorn her professorial chairs.

I claim, however, that associations like the one I have the honor to address, really do more than merely to perform the special work which led to their creation. The stone dropped in the water creates but one wave; but that by its motion begets a second; this in turn forms a third, and thus it continues ever widening until the impulse reaches the distant shore. So our organization causes its members to feel the necessity and benefit of local associations in their respective fields of practice. Thus we serve a double purpose; our influence is widened, and who shall tell its grand results?

Quite recently, in a most unexpected way, and one most assuredly unintentional by its originators, were we taught the *value of medical societies.*

A suit was brought against a member of this body, on the plea of damage done to a person by refusing to associate with the latter as a medical adviser. The legal gentlemen on both sides fully evinced their appreciation of our medical associations, and I thought then that their appreciation would have been much more profound had it been possible to announce that every regular physician, at least in this county, was connected with such a union. In fact, a question arose, whether a physician outside of these societies must hence necessarily be regarded as irregular. The defence were compelled to acknowledge through their medical witnesses that very many respectable, even valuable physicians were not sufficiently interested in the success of the profession as a whole to connect themselves with such bodies. This admission materially aided the complainant's legal adviser in his attack on our friend. It is impossible in such cases to make the average juryman understand the difference between a "regular" and a "pretender;" particularly when, as too often occurs, the latter has received his diploma from a school against which there can be no objection.

Perhaps it will be as well to consider some of the objections urged against our societies. They have been called "Mutual Admiration Bodies;" "Trades Unions," etc. etc. Our members are accused of being desirous to create a monopoly to

hold up prices, to prevent the diffusion of knowledge. Such objections have often been raised by those who are solicited to unite with us. The best reply to all such is to point to the results obtained. The general improvement; the cessation of quarrels; the elevation of the dignity of the profession; the valuable discussions; the equally important papers read and published in our journals. If we contemplate for a moment the volumes of Transactions yearly issued by our State bodies, and which I am happy to say are constantly increasing in number and in value, we cannot fail to be impressed with at least one great and useful result. These are filled with rich material, much of which could never be obtained in any other way. Excellent, but quiet men, too timid or too wanting in self-appreciation, are induced to give the results of their vast experience and arduous labors in the excitement of a discussion at their county society, but who would never dream of preparing their views for publication in the columns of a medical journal. The more free and unrestricted are these debates, the more certain are they to elicit the experience of all, and hence the greater will be their value. Numbers of men "die and leave no sign" whose experience would have been a valuable fund of information.

The charge of being "trades unions" is a cry which comes directly from those who have by their own associations learned the power of such bodies, and hence, regardless of its falsity, this accusation comes with an ill grace from those who have most profited by it. And yet I might say that we would be greatly benefited were we to copy in some particulars these "trades unions" of the mechanics. They have a law preventing the influx of unskilled labor; too many apprentices are forbidden. The result is greater skill in the finished artisan, and consequently better pay for his labor. Why may we not protect our noble, our sacred art from being prostituted to the level of a mere trade by the constant and mighty influx of apprentices utterly unprepared either by education or capacity to understand its wonderful mysteries, and who are in due time thrust forth to swell the great army of incapables?

The charge that we desire to confine medical knowledge to ourselves is at once refuted by the constant repetition of our

efforts to instruct the masses how best to care for and preserve their health. Recall the efforts of sanitarians; see with what earnestness they labor to show the people in what way they may avoid disease. Look at the midnight toil, the profound study, the great researches of our noble brethren who have filled the shelves of our libraries with their works. Search the world over for a parallel in any profession; where so much is done for poor suffering humanity, and where it is so ill requited.

To you, gentlemen, these charges come with an empty sound. They are but the mutterings of the wind which is powerless to injure the sturdy oak, the giant which has resisted a thousand storms, and which reaches its powerful limbs towards heaven.

By the letter of our law, our glorious Code of Ethics, selfishness is a forbidden thing. We cannot, we dare not keep exclusively for our own use in practice anything which we may have ascertained to be beneficial in the cure of disease. The knowledge, the experience of one must become the property of all. Now, strange as it may appear, this very provision has been one cause of objection to union with medical societies. The selfish spirit is found everywhere. Nor can we expect our profession to remain clear of this class, who come into our ranks without any of those exalted feelings which alone should animate the physician. Unfortunately, too many such abound, and they hesitate to unite with their fellows lest their mean purposes be interrupted and exposed. Others, who have associated themselves with us, hasten to abolish or emasculate the Code that they too may be without hindrance in their designs. I earnestly believe that no one can study our Ethics, and conscientiously pursue those teachings, without being made better in every way. For this reason I would commend especially to the juniors, who have just entered our ranks, a careful examination of this famous bond of union.

At present, it is the only means of distinguishing between regular physicians and the charlatans who prey upon each other and the community. Many of these latter can proclaim their membership in societies—societies with high sounding titles; many can exhibit their diplomas obtained from our

best colleges, but adherence to the Code of Ethics is not one of their virtues. Nor could such be anticipated when you find these fellows practising at will, or according as the fancy of their patrons may demand; now homœopathy, again eclecticism; now being electropaths, to-morrow announcing themselves as "gifted with the power of the seventh son with the cure in the hollow of his hand."

It is almost incredible that in this age of knowledge and progress there could be found people who support such pretenders, and for a moment believe in their absurdities. Yet the truth is that chartered institutions now flourish in our midst which will grant diplomas as coming from one of a number of differently named colleges. One of these affairs in its published announcement gave the names of its faculty, which was a "happy family" arrangement. One or two professed to be pure homœopaths, others were known as eclectics, and yet others claimed to be of the regular profession, or, to use their own phraseology, "they were Old School or Allopathic doctors." Their curriculum one could scarcely imagine. Certain it was that they soon fell apart, and one at least withdrew on the ground that the faculty were too "irregular even for him."

At this point let me urge you, gentlemen, to eschew all such names. Never accept the designation of "Allopath," or "Old School Doctor;" these are but terms of derision, and are used only by the ignorant.

A quotation from the Code of Ethics will enable me more fully to elucidate what I desire to inculcate:—

"Of the Duties of Physicians to each other and to the Profession at Large.

"Art. I. Duties for the Support of Professional Character.

"1. Every individual, on entering the profession, as he thereby becomes entitled to all its privileges and immunities, incurs an obligation to exert his best abilities to maintain its dignity and honor, to exalt its standing, and to extend the bounds of its usefulness. He should, therefore, observe strictly such laws as are instituted for the government of its members; should avoid all contumelious and sarcastic remarks relative to the faculty as a body, and while, by unwearied diligence he

resorts to every honorable means of enriching the science, he should entertain a due respect for his seniors who have, by their labors, brought it to the elevated condition in which he finds it.

"2. There is no profession from the members of which greater purity of character, and a higher standard of moral excellence are required than the medical; and to attain such eminence is a duty every physician owes alike to his profession and to his patients. It is due to the latter, as without it he cannot command their respect and confidence; and to both, because no scientific attainments can compensate for the want of correct moral principles."

Again, "Medicine is a liberal profession, and those admitted into its ranks should found their expectations of practice upon the extent of their qualifications, not on intrigue or artifice."

"3. It is derogatory to the dignity of the profession to resort to public advertisement, or private cards, or handbills, inviting the attention of individuals affected with particular diseases—publicly offering advice and medicine to the poor gratis, or promising radical cures; or to publish cases and operations in the daily prints, or suffer such publications to be made; to invite laymen to be present at operations, to boast of cures and remedies, to adduce certificates of skill and success, or to perform any other similar acts. These are the ordinary practices of empirics, and are highly reprehensible in a regular physician."

Here you have, as it were, in a nutshell, all that you require to regulate your conduct. The members of a profession bound by such sentiments as are thus expressed cannot degenerate into charlatans and pretenders.

A great necessity in our profession is some plan by which the rights and privileges granted by a diploma may be annulled when its recipient has fallen from the high position which he should have maintained. This wanting, its place may be in a great measure supplied by compulsory membership in the local society. As nothing but unprofessional conduct would prevent the admission of a graduate in medicine, that also being the ground for his expulsion, non-membership in a society would at once cause suspicion as to the status of each so excluded.

Failure or unwillingness to unite with the profession would merely work injury to themselves.

In this particular, our brethren of the bar have a great advantage. They can strike from the roll of attorneys those who betray the great trust reposed in them. Thus they are enabled to protect themselves and the public. But with us "once a doctor, always a doctor." He who has passed through the prescribed routine of studies and received his diploma, may enter upon any other calling, and yet may at any time commence the practice of the "healing art," regardless of the vast progress that has been made during his absence, and equally regardless of the fact that by the neglect of his studies, he has lost to a great extent the knowledge by which he earned his diploma.

Now, gentlemen, we have a most excellent basis on which to found our superstructure. As no medical society is regarded as "regular" which does not adopt as binding upon its members the Code of Ethics, we require nothing more than to apply its tests to those who desire fellowship with us. No honorable man can object to it. True, it excludes the man who is not in good moral or professional standing; the man whose practice is based upon an exclusive dogma; the advertiser of himself and his cures in the secular press; the dispenser of secret nostrums; the boaster of his cures and his remedies: truly "these are the ordinary practices of empirics, and are highly reprehensible in a regular physician." The Code says nothing of the men who, while despising such conduct, are willing for their own profit and emolument to meet such renegades in consultation; nor could it have been anticipated by the framers of our Ethics that any one would be so lost to decency. On the principle that "the receiver is as bad as the thief," with the belief that "evil communications corrupt good manners," our societies regard such associates as coequals in infamy, and no longer to be considered as "in good moral and professional standing."

With an earnest belief in our Code of Ethics, and an equally earnest determination to obey its teachings, let us each and all go forth throughout the length and breadth of the land bearing aloft the banner of medical organization. Let us rally the

entire profession to its standard; show them the importance and value of such unions, not only to the profession, but, what will generally prove welcome to them, the great advantages that will accrue to themselves; make strong our State societies, and these, in turn, acting upon the grand central body, the American Medical Association, will make that body the power which was intended by its founders. Then it can demand the proper legislation at the hands of our lawgivers, the proper instruction in our medical schools, so that the profession of the coming century shall be composed of educated gentlemen, respecting themselves, and in turn respected by all.

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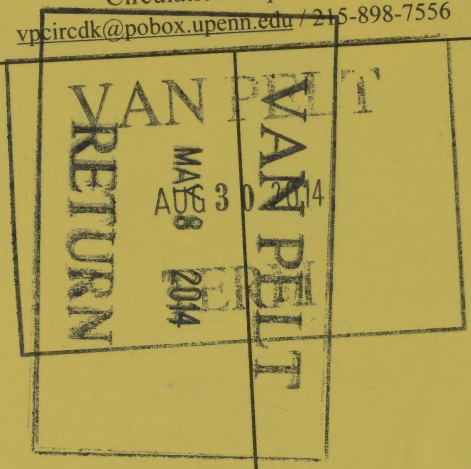

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